A.—A report has been received from the Board of Revenue on the subject and is under the consideration of the Government.

Kumki privileges of ryots in South Kanara.

* 21 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that several holdings of ryots near reserves in South Kanara have no kumki privileges ?

A.—The Government have not the information.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know whether the Government cannot get this information ?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I do not think that any useful purpose will be served by obtaining the information."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know, Sir, why the hon. Member thinks that no useful purpose will be served by getting this information ? " (Laughter.)

Restrictions on the privilege of taking timber from kumki lands.

* 22 *Q.*—Mr. K. R. KARANT : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are orders preventing a kumkidar from taking with the permission of Government any timber he requires from kumki for building his house in a different village from the one in which the kumki is situated ;

(*b*) whether such restrictions have been recently made and if so, since when, and for what reasons ; and

(*c*) whether Government propose to restore the privilege, and if not, why not ?

A.—(*a*) The permission of the Collector is necessary. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the following rule framed under section 26 of the Madras Forest Act :—

(Rule 7-A at page 38 of the Forest Manual—available in the Council Library.)

* * * * *

" The holder of land to which kumki privileges are attached may enjoy in the kumki land free of charge such privileges as he has hitherto enjoyed in the way of grazing cattle, or of cutting, converting, collecting and removing trees, timber and other forest produce, subject to the following conditions :—

(1) That the trees, timber and other forest produce shall be used only for agricultural or domestic purposes *in the village* in which the kumki land is situated, or in such other villages as the Collector may permit in writing. It shall be open to the Collector to decide, either generally or in special cases, what shall be considered agricultural or domestic purposes within the meaning of this rule."

* * * * *

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(*b*) & (*c*) No. The restrictions have been in force since 1896 and were designed to ensure that the trees, timber and other forest produce should be used only for *bona fide* agricultural or domestic purposes.

Restrictions on the privilege of taking timber from kumki lands in South Kanara.

* 23 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that ryots in South Kanara are not allowed now to remove timber trees free of seigniorage from their kumki land in one village for their own use in another village;

(*b*) if so, since when this restriction has been put upon the holders of kumki; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to restore to ryots the rights once enjoyed by them in this matter?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 22.

Settlement

Conversion of single-crop into double-crop wet lands in the South Kanara district.

* 24 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of single-crop wet lands converted into double-crop wet lands in the South Kanara district since the last settlement; and

(*b*) the extent of dry lands converted into wet or garden lands in the South Kanara district since the last settlement?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have not the information.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether the Government will call for this information?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I think, Sir, that some information will be included in the scheme report of the settlement officer and complete information will appear in the settlement report; and in these circumstances it does not seem to be necessary to call for the information earlier."

Staff Selection Board

Number and cost of meetings of the Staff Selection Board.

* 25 Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of meetings held by the Staff Selection Board, the days they sat and the work transacted by them in the past two years;

(*b*) who were the members of the Board during the said period; and

(*c*) what has been the total cost for the meetings of the Board in the same period?